general recommended the sites which have viable commercial potential. Bidding process has also been initiated in 12 cases.

(e) Railways have so far leased:

(i) 40 shops on Esplanade station over Metro Railway, Kolkata; and

(ii) two sites at South Eastern Railway, Kolkata comprising area less than 1000 sq. m. within General Managers powers.

Railways have so far realised Rs. 0.62 crore from property development.

(f) and (g) The Ministry of Railways and HUDCO had signed a Memorandum of Understanding on 13.1.2000 for taking up development over Railway land/airspace, jointly. HUDCO was to act as the co-promoter for certain identified projects. The contribution from the Railways, was to be in the form of its land/property and air space above it. Detailed modalities for commercial development could not be worked out for want of response on the part of HUDCO.

Theft and dacoity in trains

†2905. SHRI P.K. MAHESHWARI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that the number of incidents of theft and dacoity in trains has increased heavily during the 2001-2002 financial year;

(b) if so, the details thereof as compared to these figures during each of the last three years and in which trains these incidents took place; and

(c) the concrete steps taken by Government to check such incidents?

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI O. RAJAGOPAL): (a) and (b) The maintenance of law and order and the security of passengers and their belongings in the running trains and railway premises is the constitutional responsibility of the State Government concerned. The cases of Crime on Railways are reported to, registered and investigated by the Government Railway Police (GRP) which functions under the control of the State Government concerned.

However, on the basis of information collected from the GRP the number of incidents of thefts and dacoity in trains during each of the last three years, i.e. 1999, 2000 and 2001 is as under:—

Years	No. of cases reported	
	Dacoity	Theft of passengers belongings
1999	107	7490
2000	45	5972
2001	98	7514

(c) Though the responsibility to curb these incidents lies with the State Governments, the railways has also taken the following steps to supplement the efforts of the State Governments:—

1. Anti-social elements are being removed from Railway premises and trains by RPF.
2. Proper watch is being kept by Coach Attendents/TTEs on the passengers entering/detraining from the coaches and the coaches are properly locked during their run especially in night hours.
3. FIR forms are made available with the Train Guards/Station Masters/RPF to facilitate the travelling public to lodge their reports immediately.
4. Sharing of Special Intelligence and Crime Intelligence between RPF and GRP is being done at all levels.
5. Announcement through Public Address system and CCTV at important Railway Stations to alert the travelling passengers against theft of their belongings etc.

6. Police and Local Police are being conducted to analyse the crime position on Railways with a view to take suitable preventive measures.

7. Special Intelligence and Crime Intelligence are shared between RPF and the GRP at all levels.

Optimum utilization of Shatabdi Express trains

†2906. SHRI P.K. MAHESHWARI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the routes on which Shatabdi Express trains are running at present;

(b) the details of income accruing from passengers travelling in each of the Shatabdi Express;

(c) whether these trains are utilizing their optimum capacity;

(d) if not, the reasons therefor and the details of trains utilizing and those not utilizing their optimum capacity; and

(e) what steps Government have decided to take for optimum utilization of their capacity?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI O. RAJAGOPAL): (a) Details are given at the Statement enclosed (*See* below).

(b) to (d) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the Sabha.

(e) Depending upon quantum of traffic, availability of coaches, repercussions on essential freight traffic and other operational and commercial factors review of trains and their loads is done on Indian Railways, which is an ongoing process.

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.